

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LA PAZ 07643 211835Z

63

ACTION ARA-20

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 OMB-01 DRC-01 /100 W
----- 071596

R 211745Z DEC 73

FM AMEMBASSY LA PAZ

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 1788

UNCLAS LA PAZ 7643

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, PGOV, BL

SUBJ: PRESIDENT BANZER ANNOUNCES POSTPONEMENT OF ELECTIONS
TO 1975

1. PRESIDENT BANZER MADE HIS LONG-AWAITED ANNOUNCEMENT OF POST-PONEMENT OF THE 1974 ELECTIONS ON DECEMBER 20 DURING CEREMONY AT WHICH PROFESSIONAL STATUS OF BOLIVIAN JOURNALISTS WAS RECOGNIZED BY GOVERNMENT. IN HIS STATEMENT TO THE NEWSMEN, BANZER STATED THAT HE HAD TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT SUGGESTIONS AND REQUESTS SUBMITTED TO HIM BY ARMED FORCES, FRENTE POPULAR NACIONALISTA, CAMPESINOS AND "GENERAL CRITERION OF THE PEOPLE." AT SAME TIME, THE PRESIDENT SURPRISED SOME POLITICAL OBSERVERS BY ANNOUNCING THAT HE WOULD DEFINITELY TURN GOVERNMENT OVER TO HIS SUCCESSOR ON AUGUST 6, 1975, DATE ON WHICH BOLIVIA WILL CELEBRATE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF ITS INDEPENDENCE.

2. IN ACCORD WITH CONSTITUTIONAL PRECEPT AND PAST EXPERIENCE, ELECTIONS FOR NEW PRESIDENT SHOULD BE HELD NO LESS THAN SIXTY DAYS PRIOR TO INAUGURATION OF PRESIDENT ON TRADITIONAL AUGUST 6 DATE. THUS, SHOULD ELECTIONS BE HELD ON FIRST SUNDAY IN MAY OR JUNE, AS IS CUSTOMARY, BOLIVIA WILL HOLD ITS PRESIDENTIAL ELECTIONS ON EITHER MAY 4 OR JUNE 1 OF 1975.
STEDMAN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
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Draft Date: 21 DEC 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Drafter: n/a
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